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Town of Middlebury Energy Committee Meeting Minutes February 19, 2020

Present: Steve Maier, Howard Widelitz, Ross Conrad, Diane Munroe, Liv Herdman, Van Barth, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Richard Hopkins (via phone)

Absent: Lisa Bernardin

Guests: Middlebury College Students Acadia Hegedus and Bella Pucker

Review of Agenda: It was suggested we move the order of items to discuss the Carbon Reduction Strategy after the student report. This was agreed to unanimously.

Review of Minutes: Diane moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ross seconded. Unanimous approval by voice vote.

Energy Portfolio Manager Baseline Bella and Acadia presented the “Climate Action Plan” they developed for their Middlebury College J-Term project. Committee members expressed gratitude and complimented the two of them for their work with researching and assembling the information into a well-written comprehensive report. Bella and Acadia acknowledged they were limited by time and couldn’t go into the breadth and depth they would have preferred if they had more time. Even so, the Climate Action Plan they developed will still be very useful in support of the Energy Committee’s greenhouse gas reduction strategy. See attached Report.

Action item for Acadia and Bella to meet with Richard upon his return to establish consistency between their respective data.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy Feedback and Actions: Report was well received by the select board. There was a request by the Selectboard to present and discuss the strategy with the department heads. There is a roughly 90-day timeline for meeting with town department heads. A very rough draft of the Advisory Committee process for purchasing that was proposed in the Greenhouse Gas reduction strategy was provided to Heather Seeley for review prior to the Selectboard review of the strategy. Although Heather was fine with the proposed process, the details will need to be worked and agreed to by both the Infrastructure and Energy Committees. The Advisory Board process will be added to the agenda for the next Energy Committee meeting.

Expanding EV charger availability: To encourage parking on the periphery of town during the construction we may want to install charging stations. Ross reported on the information he gathered with respect to the installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. The least expensive of these is \$1500 and \$2500 if hooked up to Wi-Fi. The most rugged one is \$5000 to \$6000. Costs include electricity and ongoing software costs. Regarding the locations of new charging stations within Middlebury, some EV charging stations are going into Danforth and the Rec Center and two in the Bees Wrap building. Is it possible to get data on how often various charging stations are used? As in the case of the Bees Wrap charging stations and other private charging stations at commercial sites, is it possible for these to be used by the public during nonbusiness hours?

Revolving Loan Fund- Steve presented the Revolving Loan Fund process he developed to the committee. It is geared toward existing municipal operations. Do we have the flexibility to put money

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into revolving loan fund and/or keep it separate? Based on the feedback and discussion Steve is going to create one more draft for our review. This will be added to the March meeting agenda for an in-depth as to how we want to implement this fund.

Roundtable ACRPC. Andrew L'Roe on behalf of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) organized and hosted a roundtable discussion for all the Addison County energy committees to share ideas and develop a broader approach for energy related issues. Many from our committee were in attendance. This first meeting was mostly a meet and greet but there were many good discussions with Andrew presenting energy related data within Addison County. The next meeting will be March 31st and all committee members are invited to attend.

Random Notes

Chief Hanley requested approval for the purchase of a new hybrid police cruiser. The Selectboard approved the purchase and was supportive of the more fuel-efficient police cruiser. The hybrid is expected to average 24 mpg as compared to a "normal" cruiser's 17 mpg.

Steve is spearheading the search for interns this summer to help with the ACORN energy resource guide. The intern will also work with CEAC on several projects.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 with a motion from Lindsey Fuentes-George that was seconded by Van Barth.